

Nixon & Vanderhye PC.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

8TH FLOOR
1100 NORTH GLEBE ROAD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22201-4714

TELEPHONE: (703) 816-4000
FACSIMILE: (703) 816-4100
WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NUMBER:
(703) 816-4044

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Our Ref.: 2018-460
Serial No.: 09/982,988 Date: May ⁷~~5~~, 2004

To: Examiner Broadhead
Firm: United States Patent and Trademark Office
Facsimile No.: ~~(703) 305-7687~~ (703) 746-3550
From: Raymond Y. Mah

Number of Pages (including cover sheet): 4
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Sarah Lanning
FACSIMILE OPERATOR

ATTACHMENT/S:

MESSAGE: Thank you for briefly discussing this application with me. Per your request, I have prepared a proposed Amendment for discussion purposes during an interview.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

MAKI et al.

Atty. Ref.: 2018-460

Serial No. 09/982,988

Group: 3661

Filed: October 22, 2001

Examiner: Broadhead, B.

For: VEHICULAR CONTROL DEVICE HAVING SELF-DIAGNOSIS, FUNCTION
AND SELF-DIAGNOSIS PROGRAM FOR IMPLEMENTING THE SAME

* * * * *

PROPOSED

***FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY--PLEASE
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PROPOSED AMENDMENT/REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

The Examiner is thanked for briefly discussing the application with Applicant's representative. Per the Examiner's request, Applicant submits the following proposed amendments and other topics for discussion during an interview.

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PROPOSED

Proposed Amendments to the Claims:

27. (currently amended) A vehicular control device according to claim 1, wherein the result of the malfunction detection operation of each one of said at least one diagnosis target is categorized into one selected from at least three levels, which include normal, temporarily abnormal and abnormal.

Claims 28-34 are to be amended in a manner similar to that noted above with respect to claim 27.

Additional Topics for Discussion:

Independent claim 1 requires controlling a malfunction indicator light (MIL) in such a manner that operation of the MIL is selected from one of the following possible conditions: lighting-on, flashing and lighting-off. In contrast, Shimizu et al (EP 0987423, Applicant: Denso - the recorded assignee of the present application) only discloses lighting-on and lighting-off of the MIL and does not disclose flashing of the MIL (see, e.g., paragraphs [0031], [0037] and [0047] of Shimizu). Shimizu thus does not disclose flashing of the MIL as a possible condition.


The October 27, 2000 priority date of the present application is earlier than the December 4, 2000 filing date of Kubo et al.

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Applicant's representative looks forward to discussing the above and other issues with the Examiner. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 
Raymond Y. Mah
Reg. No. 41,426

RYM:sl
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4044
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100

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NIXON & VANDERHYE 703 816 4100 → USPTO

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